

Child Care Scholarships: Child Care Provider FAQs

What are the eligibility requirements for a child care program?

Child care programs must be licensed by ODJFS/DCY and located in Franklin County.

What are the family eligibility requirements?

Scholarships are available for Franklin County families, including foster families, who are not currently receiving other subsidies including Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) or the Child Care Choice Voucher*. Families must have a total household income of 145% - 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. The chart below is available to determine income eligibility.

Number of People in Household	Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	145% FPL	300% FPL
1	\$15,060	\$21,837	\$45,180
2	\$20,440	\$29,638	\$61,320
3	\$25,850	\$37,483	\$77,460
4	\$31,200	\$45,240	\$93,600
5	\$36,580	\$53,041	\$109,740
6	\$41,960	\$60,842	\$125,880
7	\$47,340	\$68,643	\$142,020
8	\$52,720	\$76,744	\$158,160

**If a family is already receiving PFCC or related funding (such as from Child Care Aware or a similar program), they are not eligible for a scholarship.*

Do families need to reside inside Franklin County?

Yes. A change to eligibility for the 2024-2025 program period now requires all eligible families to be residents of Franklin County.

Are child care employees eligible for scholarships?

The simple answer is - yes! If you meet the other scholarship requirements, you can also be an employee of the child care program.

How do families apply for a scholarship?

Families must be working with an eligible child care program. The application is electronic and must be started by the child care program. As part of the application process, you will need to provide:

- Functioning email
- Program license number
- EIN or Social Security Number
- Account & routing numbers for direct deposit
- Primary family contact name and email
child's name and age
- Your company tuition fee schedule
- Requested amount of scholarship

Once the child care program portion of the application is complete, the system will automatically generate an email to the family for them to complete their portion of the application.

Should children currently receiving a scholarship apply now?

Yes. All RISE recipients should apply now for the Year 3 scholarship. Given that we are expecting the application to fill up quickly, even people whose RISE scholarship extends past November 2024 should apply now (as money will not be set aside for later ending scholarships). Please note that approved scholarships in this situation will not extend past November 30, 2025. For instance, if a RISE recipient’s current scholarship is approved through January 2025 and they get approved for the Year 3 scholarship, it will not extend past November 2025.

Is the application for a “renewing” child different?

No. All RISE recipients will need to reapply for the year 3 scholarship, even past and current RISE recipients. Renewal of the scholarship is not automatic or guaranteed, so we recommend applying for the scholarship as soon as possible.

How much money will be credited towards the family’s tuition balance?

Each scholarship amount is determined based on the tuition charged by the child care provider and the income of the family.

Use the chart below in order to determine the maximum payment allotted for your household income. You will be approved for either the maximum allotment allowable for your income or the maximum monthly tuition charged by your child care provider.

In other words, eligible families will either get the maximum monthly payment allotted based on the sliding scale for income (see scale below), or the total monthly cost for tuition, which ever amount is smaller.

FPL Bracket	Maximum Monthly Scholarship Payment Per Child
145% - 165%	\$750.00
166% - 185%	\$687.50
186% - 205%	\$625.00
206% - 250%	\$562.50
251%-300%	\$500.00

Once approved, child care providers and families are contacted via email with the notice of approval, amount of monthly scholarship payment, and the period of time approved.

How many scholarships can I apply for?

Each participating child care center is able to offer up to ten scholarships, and family child care programs are able to offer up to six scholarships while funding lasts. You can apply for multiple children of the same family, or different families, but each child is counted as one of the six scholarships and needs their own separate application.

How soon after applying will I hear back?

Once the application has been completed by both child care provider and family, the application will be reviewed for eligibility. Watch your email for further information.

When do payments begin?

Payments will begin with the first full month of enrollment following approval. The monthly enrollment verification form must be turned in each month before the deadline in order to receive payment.

How long is the scholarship?

Scholarships are approved for a **period of time ending November 30, 2025**. In instances when a child is absent from a program, such as during transfers between child care providers or summer break when a program is closed, the missed month(s) are forfeited. Please communicate any expected absenteeism in advance when possible. Payments will resume once the child enrollment begins and enrollment verification is submitted.

Regardless of which month the scholarship begins, all end November 30, 2025. This change will help all scholarships to align with the funding contract cycle.

What if my child care program is not open year-round?

Closure months are forfeited. Please communicate these closures in advance to ensure the remaining months of scholarship are available.

What happens if a family transfers child care programs?

If a family transfers they must contact Action for Children immediately via RISEHelp@actionforchildren.org to communicate the decision. Payments will begin with the first full month following enrollment at the new child care program. Unenrolled time will be forfeited. If a family unenrolls from their scholarship provider without prior communication to Action for Children, funds may not be available, and could be reassigned to another scholarship recipient.

What happens if a family unenrolls from my child care program?

If a RISE scholarship recipient unenrolls or stops attending, please immediately contact RISEHelp@actionforchildren.org. This will allow for the dollars to be allotted to another child.

Why could a month of RISE be forfeit?

- Transfer to a new childcare mid-month
- Enrollment verification is not submitted within 6 weeks of the beginning of the month (i.e., January verification is not submitted by the second week of February).
- If a child begins kindergarten, the days/months after their start date are forfeit.

Why could a RISE scholarship be discontinued?

- Child begins kindergarten
- Missing 2+ months of enrollment verification without reaching out to Action for Children
- Transfer to another child care taking 31+ days
- Transfer to an unlicensed child care provider or a child care provider outside of Franklin County

What is required to maintain the scholarship throughout the time period?

In order for a monthly payment to be made and the scholarship to remain active, the child care provider and family must complete the monthly enrollment.

Each month an email will be sent to the child care provider where the provider is asked to enter attendance data and confirm the child's enrollment. Following their completion, the parent will receive an email where they must confirm enrollment.

Payments are made the Friday of third full week of each month. If confirmation of enrollment is not made prior to the beginning of the third full week, payment will be delayed and possibly forfeited.

Do I still need to submit enrollment verification and attendance information?

Yes, a monthly enrollment verification *and* attendance information must be submitted. December enrollment verification will be collected using the paper form following the [Current RISE scholarship](#) process. For all future months, a new electronic form has been created which captures enrollment verification and attendance will be used. ***Starting in January 2025, providers must submit the form within the first 2 weeks of the month (otherwise payment could be delayed or forfeited for that month).***

As part of this process, the child care program will submit the child's attendance for the past month, and their expected enrollment for the current month. For example, the form completed in January will show attendance for December and confirm the child is expected to be enrolled for January.

How do I complete the new Enrollment/Attendance form?

The child care provider will receive a monthly email listing all active scholarship recipients and the link to complete the electronic forms from RISE. You will input your program's license number, which will auto-populate additional information including the names of the children. Enter the previous month's attendance data for each child accurately.

After completing the attendance information for the previous month, you will indicate if the child is still attending for the current month (this acts as our new enrollment verification). If the answer is "yes", an email will be sent to the parent of the child to confirm expected attendance and document any attendance challenges the child has had. If the answer is "no" then no email is sent to the parent for additional confirmation.

For this reason, it is important families and child care providers to communicate transfers or breaks in enrollment directly to RISEHelp@actionforchildren.org.